

Tracking Priority for *Bright Futures* Participants



In order to begin collecting consistent data for LSTA and other reporting purposes, ICfL is collecting the number of children birth to 18 who read at least 10 hours or at least 10 books over the summer months. *“Reading” qualifies as reading independently and/or being read to (read alouds, audiobooks, online books).*

Why? Idaho libraries have no consistent reading program, and they collect statistics in a variety of ways: Registrations, minutes read, books read, attendance at programs, activities completed, days read, etc. It is virtually impossible for ICfL to submit the number of children “participating in summer reading” on state and federal reports because participation varies so much. We can maintain our libraries’ ability to customize programs to meet individual needs by collecting at least one piece of consistent data and reporting on that. Because ICfL’s summer reading outcome is for “children to maintain reading achievement skills over the summer with support from Idaho libraries,” we want to know the number of children who kept up a minimal reading routine over the summer.

Does my library have to collect this data? No. However, we strongly encourage your library to support this data collection because having consistent data helps support all Idaho public library summer reading funding. In addition, if your library wishes to apply for any Bright Futures outreach program (School Visits, School Partnerships, Reaching Underserved Children, or Little Libraries), applications from libraries who agree to collect this information will be given priority. Bright Futures materials are limited, so instead of a “first-come, first-served” process, the libraries who agree to track this information will be granted priority over those who do not.

Why “10 hours or 10 books”? From data collected on the 2014 Idaho Summer Reading Reports there are a significant number of Idaho libraries who already track in one of these increments, or track close to this amount. Though these amounts may seem rather low, for struggling readers this amount may be easier to achieve than something higher. We don’t want to limit children to *only* 10 hours or 10 books, so hopefully libraries will set this as a minimum goal, or “first level” goal, or something comparable. While attendance at programs and summer learning activities are an important part of the library summer program experience and play a valuable role, the 10 hour/10 book data will give us a better idea of how many children are keeping up a reading routine over the summer. This output can also be measured with the children we impact through outreach, i.e., those who do not typically attend regular library programs but may be able to turn in reading logs at park or school programs, etc.

How can my library adapt its current tracking system to report number of children reading at least 10 hours or 10 books? Here are some suggestions:

- If your library currently tracks hours or books brainstorm with your staff and volunteers how to report the number of children who meet the minimum of 10/10.
- If library tracks number of days read: A minimum of 10 minutes each day would take 60 days to reach 10 hours. 20 minutes would take 30 days to achieve. A simple choice question on the reading log for parents to circle would tell you about how much time was spent reading each day—“Average number of minutes read each day: 10 – 15; 20 – 30; more than 30.” It’s not

exact, but if the library requires, say, 45 days of reading for “completion” of summer reading, one can reasonably assume they read at least 10 hours or 10 books.

- If library’s summer reading log is activity based, one of the activities could be to read at least 10 books, and another one could be to read at least 10 hours; one or the other could be part of the minimum requirement for completion.
- If library allows children and parents to set personal goals, communicate the 10/10 requirement with them and allow them to choose their goal based on trying to at least achieve that.
- If your library has traditionally *only* tracked attendance at programs you will need to add this component, but do not need to replace attendance. However, please consider the number of children who cannot participate in summer reading if the requirement is based on attendance. Children who can read at home or in child care environments can more widely participate if you are tracking minutes or number of books.

If you have additional questions you may contact one of the ICfL summer reading coordinators:



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